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THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016

House fire leads to charges

Man charged with arson for Gasline
blaze.
Page 3

Body found in canal

Body DNA being compared to missing
Welland woman.
Page 6.

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Expand Jerry's world



Over the period of a year, Jerry Copeland, 50, has had both his legs amputated below the knee. His life is limited to the distance he can travel on his scooter from his Port Colborne home. Jerry and his wife, Jennifer, would like to buy a van and have it fitted to accommodate his scooter so he can visit friends and family. See more on page 2

CHERYL GLOCK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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LOCAL NEWS

Shrinking world of Jerry Copeland

CHERYL CLOCK
Postmedia Network

For more than a year, Jerry Copeland's world has been inside the four walls of his living room. When it's not raining, or snowing, when the weather is good enough to ride his motorized scooter, his world grows to an 11-kilometre radius around his house.

It's the distance he can travel on his red scooter, and still have enough battery power to make it home again.

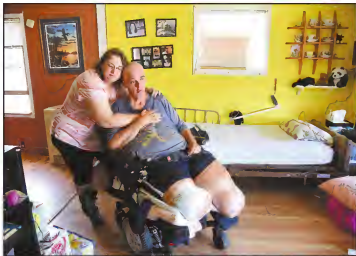
Jerry, 50, does not have legs below his knees.

In the span of a year his lower legs were amputated to save his life. So, as far as his scooter can take him is the boundary of his world.

Every morning he needs a specialized lift to transfer him from his bed to scooter, and every night to get him back into bed again. During the day, he does not get off his scooter. Ever.

And his world is not big enough for him.

His wife, Jennifer, 40, has launched a crowd-sourcing campaign to raise enough money to buy a van and convert it into one that would transport



CHERYL CLOCK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Over the period of a year, Jerry Copeland, 50, has had both his legs amputated below the knee. His life is limited to the distance he can travel on his scooter from his Port Colborne home. Jerry and his wife, Jennifer, 40, would like to buy a van and have it fitted to accommodate his scooter so he can visit friends and family.

Jerry in his scooter. She is helping for at least \$10,000.

One day after that, maybe they'll save enough money to get

him hand controls so he could drive it himself, she says.

A van would make his world bigger. More like the one he had

when he had legs, she says.

At the moment, the people and activities that once gave his life quality are beyond his reach.

Last winter, he did not leave his house at all, except for medical appointments.

"Emotional wise, not being able to do stuff, it's hard on him," says Jennifer. "Really hard on him."

"He wants as much independence back as possible."

"He just wants to have a life."

Of all the losses, the one that hurts the most is not being able to visit his 70-year-old father, who lives in St. Catharines and has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. The last time they met was in the parking lot of a doctor's office in St. Catharines.

Jerry was there for an appointment with a surgeon. He rode there on an accessible bus, provided by Niagara Specialized Transit, the region's transportation service for people with disabilities. The service is designed to take people from one municipality to another, for medical appointments, employment or education. Jerry cannot use the service to visit his father.

And while Niagara Regional Transit buses are all wheelchair accessible, Jerry would have to catch it at the Welland terminal. Getting there is the problem. First, he would have to

somehow get to Port Colborne city hall, then wait there for an accessible bus, because not all Port Colborne Link buses are wheelchair friendly.

While his father can and does drive to Port Colborne to visit Jerry, he is not well and is in the midst of chemotherapy treatments, says Jennifer.

The parking lot rendezvous was all they could manage.

A round trip, door-to-door from Port Colborne to St. Catharines costs Jerry about \$30. He lives on CPP disability; Jennifer works at a call centre in Welland.

Paying for more pressing necessities like a mortgage, groceries and the medical supplies and equipment needed to keep Jerry at home, has left the couple without funds to save for a wheelchair van.

In an ideal world, they'd trade in their Toyota RAV4 for a Dodge Caravan, and be able to keep similar monthly payments. But the estimated \$17,000 needed to modify a van with things such as a ramp, and to refit the inside to accommodate Jerry on his scooter, is beyond their reach.

See JERRY on page 7

Arson charge for Port house fire

A Port Colborne man has been charged with arson after fire extensively damaged a home in the city's east end last Tuesday.

Johannes Blek, 65, also charged with uttering threats, was arrested at the scene by Niagara Regional Police after

firefighters battled a blaze at 788 Pinecrest Rd.

Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services found the house engulfed in flames when they responded to the call at 6:32 a.m. Damage is set at \$200,000.

Blek was arrested after

an investigation conducted the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, but transported to Welland County General Hospital due to a medical condition.

He was being held in police custody pending a bail hearing.



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LOCAL NEWS

Museum volunteer has long love of history

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

One Port Colborne local has dedicated 40 years of her life to her passion for history.

Marcia Turner first started volunteering at Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum in 1975. Over the years she has seen the museum transform from being located in one building, to the addition of more, including an archives building.

"I've always had an interest in history. From my Grade 4 teacher on Elm Street, she was interested and taught history and that sort of got the bug in me," Turner said.

Turner volunteers once a week for the entire day. She said it never feels like work because she not only enjoys history, but also the people she works with.

Turner is in charge of cross-referencing all the material that is donated to the museum.

Turner creates binders to catalogue the items, which museum heritage research technician Michelle Vosburgh said is a tremendous help when staff need to find something specific.

Vosburgh said Turner's contributions to the museum have been varied. At one point Turner was doing the museum's bookkeeping.

"Marcia is really great to work with ... her knowledge of Port Colborne is amazing. Often people will come in with questions and Marcia is the one to go to," she said.

Turner was born and raised in Port Colborne, so the depth of knowledge she has about the area is significant.

Turner has advocated for accessibility at the museum. She pushed for a ramp to be built so that people with physical disabilities could visit the museum. A ramp was installed about three years ago at the front of the museum. Vosburgh

said as Turner has started to need to use a walker herself, Turner has become more aware of accessibility issues.

"She wants to be able to get around, and she wants to be able to share the history here with others who are in the same position she is. It has made her much more sensitive to it, although she always has been concerned about it," Vosburgh said.

The addition of the ramp has made an impact on the amount of people who visit the museum. Vosburgh said she has seen an increase in visitors and seen them enjoy the history of Port Colborne.

Museum director Stephanie Baswick nominated Turner for the Regional Association of Volunteer Administrators award (RAVA) for her years of service. RAVA is awarded to volunteers who show dedication and passion for their volunteerism.

Turner received her award



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Port Colborne local Marcia Turner, 82, has been volunteering at Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum for 40 years.

in June at a ceremony in St. Catharines.

Vosburgh said Baswick and museum staff wanted to nominate Turner because

she has been a "big part of the museum" through the years.

Turner said she doesn't feel any different after receiving an award for volunteering.

"I don't know where I'm going to put all these darn pins I've got," Turner said with a laugh.

MAllenberg@postmedia.com

Nothing sour about these sisters



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

For about 10 years the Graham family have sold lemonade and water at their home on Victoria Street in Port Colborne during Canal Days. Sisters Ireland Graham, 11, Sophia Graham, 4, and Avery Graham, 7, enjoyed their Canal Days the same way they always do, keeping visitors hydrated. Ireland said she enjoys selling cold drinks because she likes making people happy. While her sister Avery, a future entrepreneur, said she liked making money the most, Sophia wasn't too concerned with the lemonade. She said she enjoyed going to the events at Canal Days and seeing all the activities.

I've been thinking about loving my neighbour

REV. THOMAS PARTRIDGE
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Summer is generally a slow time in the church — a lot of people are on vacation, including pastors.

Some churches take a pause from programs like Sunday school, Bible study, youth group and other activities. Our church even moves the worship service half an hour earlier and forgoes the after church coffee hour fellowship time so people can get to their recreation activities sooner.

But things don't necessarily calm down or quiet down for the rest of society. Over the past weeks and months we've seen the Black Lives Matter movement continue their protests to see real change in the way people of colour are treated.

Our neighbours to the south have seen more police shootings of unarmed black men. They've also seen the shooting of police officers doing their duty to maintain peace and safety. The political scene in the U.S. has become typically ugly which isn't all that surprising anymore.

Overseas wars continue to rage. Terror attacks have taken place in Europe. The U.K. was thrown into turmoil as a majority of voters chose to isolate themselves by leaving the EU.

Our churches might see a quieter and slower pace, but our world isn't nearly as calm. That might just give some people cause to think that the church isn't relevant or it's out of touch with society and what goes on in our world.

But church and religion are not just about the programs that go on our buildings. It's about, or should be about, changed

lives. It's about nurturing faith so people go from these buildings and change the world in which we all live.

John Chrysostom was a bishop in Constantinople at the end of the fourth and beginning of the fifth century AD.

He wrote, "This is the rule of most perfect Christianity. Its most exact definition, its highest point, namely, the seeking of the common good ... for nothing can so make a person an imitator of Christ as caring for his neighbour."

I grieve to see all the turmoil, violence, fear, anger and hate in our world. When Jesus began his ministry in Galilee he preached about the kingdom of God. This wasn't about a place. It wasn't about overthrowing the Roman rulers and setting up a theocracy in Israel. It was about living life under God's rule. It was about conversion so that we would stop cooking out for ourselves and start looking out for one another.

Jesus was once confronted by a teacher of religious law who asked him which was the most important of all the commandments in the Hebrew scriptures. Jesus answered with a quote from the book of Deuteronomy that we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

Then he continued with a quote from the book of Leviticus, saying it is equally important to "love your neighbour as yourself."

So Jesus wasn't exactly calling for a new order for living since it has been part of God's law and teaching to the people of Israel for centuries. The problem was that they hadn't been living by



GETTY IMAGES

A young child holds a sign aloft to support the Black Lives Matter movement.

those teachings. And we've had those teachings of the Hebrew Bible and of Jesus for a couple more millennia and we're not living by them either.

So, I'd say the church is still entirely relevant and entirely in touch with society and what's going on in our world as long as we continue to have this most important lesson of Jewish and Christian teaching. Islam also connects the love of Allah

with love and responsibility to our neighbours. Virtually all the world's major religions say that you can't separate love for God from love for your neighbour. Even many of our non-religious people will agree with the Golden Rule that Jesus proclaimed — "Do to others as you would have them to do to you."

Religious people often talk about conversion. Often they refer to the destiny of the "soul,"

like a ticket to heaven when you die. Unfortunately that can lead a lot of people to smugness and their perceived destiny and becoming judgmental about everyone else. But what if the conversion we talk about is a change from selfishness to neighbour-love? What if conversion and faith is about living and working for the common good?

We can make the world a better place if people prac-

ticed what is preached in our synagogues, churches, and mosques. We need to take those teachings and let them transform our personal lives, our family lives, our work lives, and our public lives. This neighbour-love thing is really quite radical. It goes against the "look out for yourself" lessons that society likes to teach. What can we all do for the common good?

Condoms are your friends, Niagara



GRANT
LAFLECHE

I'm not mad at you, Niagara. I am just disappointed.

I think, at the right time to use. I don't have kids, and I've never had to give "the talk" to anyone before, so I am bringing it here. I mean, what do you

say to a region that is behaving like hormonally-driven, irresponsible teenagers?

Honestly, this is not a conversation I thought we would have to have in 2016. But, as Jawaharlal Nehru said, facts

are facts and they do not disappear on account of your likes. And these facts cannot be ignored.

Last week, Niagara's public health department tweeted out some local statistics on sexu-

ally transmitted diseases.

Specifically, the agency said in the past two years Niagara's gonorrhea rate has increased by a staggering 90 per cent.

Given that I went to high school in the late 1980s, at a

time when there was a major push to get teenagers to understand safer sex and importance of using condoms, this statistic seemed rather puzzling.

CONDOMS on page 5

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P POSTMEDIA

Why not use condoms if you can?

CONDOMS from page 4

After all this time, thought I, people would have enough common sense not put themselves at needless risk.

Then again, we are living in a world where a mad real-estate tycoon is a serious contender for president of the United States. So I shouldn't take anything for granted.

I called up the public health department to find out what is behind that massive increase in gonorrhea infections, and the detailed statistics are sobering.

According to Kathy Bell, manager of sexual health, there were 93 positive tests for gonorrhea in 2013. By the end of 2015, that number shot up to 183.

About 66 per cent of these cases are people aged 15 to 29, and more men are testing positive than women.

Bell said part of the increase in positive tests is

driven by simple math. Public health is conducting more tests, and with more tests, you are going to find more infected people.

Even with that caveat, however, the underlying reason for the spike in cases is that people aren't careful.

"People have multiple sexual partners and aren't using condoms," Bell said.

Gonorrhea isn't lethal, but it sure doesn't sound like much fun. Bell said it causes serious pain, burning while urinating, and discharge from the penis and vagina. If left untreated, it can even impact your joints and heart valves.

However, you can also carry the bacteria and not show symptoms and spread it to your partner unknowingly.

The treatment involves injections of antibiotics and antibiotic pills.

If this all sounds like a high school sex ed class, well, that is because it should. And too many Niagarans didn't pay attention. It's not like prevention is difficult. Condoms are easy to use. Heck, you can even get them for free at any of the region's sexual health clinics.

As a result of what amounts to just plain stupidity, Niagara has the dubious honour of having the fifth highest rate of gonorrhea infections in Ontario. Toronto is No. 1, Bell said, but that isn't because Torontonians are even less smart about sex than Niagarans. Toronto is the country's largest city, so you just expect to find more cases by weight of population.

And as it turns out, gonorrhea isn't Niagara's only

problem.

Bell said cases of chlamydia are also on the rise.

In 2013, there were 1,117 cases, in 2014 that rose to 1,179 and by 2015 Niagara had 1,254 cases of chlamydia. That puts Niagara as having the 13th highest rate of chlamydia infections in Ontario.

I know there are many people in Niagara who want the region to be considered No.1, but this is absolutely not the way to do it.

Look, I am certainly no prude. Follow your bliss, as they say. Just don't be a blithering moron while doing it. We've known how to prevent sexually transmitted infections for a long time now.

Still, if for some reason you remain unclear on



the whole safer sex thing, or where to go to get help or information, the public health department has some handy links online you should click:

Info on gonorrhea: www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/sexual-health/gonorrhea-in-niagara.aspx

health_wellness/sexual-health/gonorrhea-in-niagara.aspx

Info on sexual health clinics: [www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/sexual-health-centres.aspx#toptask-1](http://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/sexual-health/sexual-health-centres.aspx#toptask-1)

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Body DNA being compared to missing Welland woman

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

The 2013 disappearance of a Welland woman is being looked into in connection to the discovery of a body in a car submerged in the Welland Recreational Canal.

A recreational diver discovered a red Pontiac in the canal off of Canal Bank Street in Welland two weeks ago. The diver contacted police, and the Niagara Regional Police dive team located the vehicle.

NRP media relations officer Phil Gavin said last

Tuesday the body found in the vehicle is an unidentified female.

He said at the moment there is no information about to whom the vehicle belongs or who the woman might be.

Gavin said he isn't aware if the car's licence plates

have been checked, adding a police investigator might not want to share that information.

He did say the vehicle had many similarities to a vehicle involved in the case of Cathy Pietz, who was 56 when she was last seen Dec. 6, 2013.

At the time NRP believed she was driving a red four-door 2001 Pontiac GTI.

"It certainly has some similarities to the Cathy Pietz investigation... We are working with the office of the coroner to obtain a DNA sample from that body... to be examined," Gavin said.

The DNA sample will be compared to Pietz's DNA.

"We don't want to mislead or put out any false information, so we are taking this one step at a time," Gavin said.

DNA testing is a long process and can take anywhere from 30 to 60 days. Gavin said NRP might have more information sooner, but right now it looks like it could take a while.

Gavin said there is no cause of death yet and the investigation will continue.

Police had conducted searches of the canal in the weeks following her disappearance.



Cathy Pietz

pearance, including to use sonar technology to provide clues to the vehicle could have been.

Among deliberate searches of the canal was an area south of West Street in Port Colborne in early January 2014.

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Jerry's life inside four walls

JERRY from page 2

They have applied for funding through the March of Dimes' Home and Vehicle Modification program, and are waiting to hear if they qualify. The intent of the program is to help Ontario residents who live with a substantial impairment to overcome mobility problems, in their home and vehicle.

Money is directed to people who need it most, says program manager Lonnie McInnis.

A limit of \$15,000 is available for vehicle modifications. And couples who make between \$35,000 and \$65,000, which is where the Copelands fit, would have to contribute a certain percentage themselves. More than \$65,000 and they're not eligible for the program at all, he says.

The program is given \$9.2 million annually by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Every year, funding is exhausted and demand is bigger than supply, says McInnis.

"We're not able to say yes to everyone who applies," he says.

As many as 3,000 people ask for funding each year, com-

pared to the 850 who receive it.

Jerry and Jennifer are inseparable. They met through friends, fell in love and married a year later, 15 years ago. They don't have children.

"He wears his heart on his sleeve. He's like a big teddy bear, compassionate and caring," says Jennifer.

"He's always looking out for me."

Jerry smiles at Jennifer. "She's the only one who would put up with me," he says.

On this day, Jerry sits where he can be found most days, in his living room. His bed is tucked into one corner. A fan hums next to him, and fresh air drifts in through a screen door.

They used to enjoy fishing together along the Lake Erie shoreline, and long drives following the Niagara Parkway, stopping on a whim for picnic.

"My independence is basically gone," says Jerry. "You're always relying on somebody else."

"Some days you wonder if it's worth going on."

"You're always in pain. You can never get comfortable."

"Life passes you on."

Jerry is a diabetic and lives with congestive heart failure. In January 2015 he found a blister on the bottom of his left foot. A week later, one appeared on his right. The blisters, fed by poor circulation, turned into gangrene which spread up his leg.

In April, the choice was this: "Remove the leg, or die," says Jennifer. His left leg was amputated below the knee.

He spent a year after that, mostly in bed, trying to save his other leg. But this April, his right leg was amputated as well.

Most things in their home are beyond his reach. Before Jennifer leaves for work, she helps Jerry get bathed and dressed.

She has help from a personal support worker. She makes him breakfast, and lunch, and double checks that things like a cup, and the coffee machine (pre-filled with coffee and water) are within his grasp. She works for eight hours, then is home to make dinner and get him into bed by herself. She is on leave currently, and will return back to work soon.

Jerry feels the weight of guilt.

"I feel bad for her because she's always trapped with me," he says.

"She can get up and go into her car, and bugger off and go where she wants. But she doesn't."

"She knows I'll just be sitting here with four walls."

"I'm dragging her life down as well."

Jennifer's family is spread out from Oshawa to Ottawa. Her mother had a stroke last year, and is in a nursing home in Bowmanville.

She can't spend the night away from Jerry, because he's unable to care for himself.

And other than Jerry's father, he has no other family close by.

In good weather, the couple goes for walks together. Jerry joins her on trips to Food Basics, but he can't reach anything on the shelves. If he goes out alone, he pulls a string attached to the front door knob to close it, and a stick to push it open.

Transportation means freedom, says Tom McPherson, manager of community support services at the local

branch of the Canadian Red Cross.

Without it, people can't make medical appointments, visit friends, or have independence.

"Your quality of life suffers," he says.

"Unless they have some sort of support system, they're housebound."

"They're confined to the limits of their mobility device."

In Niagara, the Red Cross has a fleet of buses and vans, drivers and volunteers who made some 35,000 trips last year across the region to get people to doctors and rehab appointments, shopping trips, visits and recreational programs, says McPherson.

Jerry is in the midst of applying to the service.

It has six buses that can accommodate people in wheelchairs and scooters. The fare is based on distance. Port Colborne to St. Catharines costs from \$12 to \$17, one way.

Niagara has pockets of accessible transportation support services at the local

Get Jerry A Wheelchair Van

gofundme: www.gofundme.com/28d6t5j9

Catharines — but needs to be better connected as a region, and among municipal and non-profit groups, he says.

There are about 1,800 people in Niagara who use the Red Cross's transportation service. Most are seniors who are able to walk, but are unable to drive or take public transit.

While it's difficult to get Jerry to St. Catharines, it's impossible to get him beyond Niagara, says Jennifer.

He has missed Christmas with family in Oshawa. And has resigned himself to never realizing his dream of visiting Nova Scotia.

His lives within the limits of his scooter. And his house.

"Sitting here with four walls drives you crazy," he says. "I just want to return to my old life."

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Cheers for Niagara Rio Olympians



BOB TYMCZYSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Staff, students and Brock summer camp kids gather at the school's Guernsey Market to help send off several of the athletes who will compete at the Rio Olympics. Wrestlers Michelle Fazzari, and teammate Jillian Gallays are joined by Jessica Lewis, a fifth-year Brock student who will represent her native Bermuda in the track events of the Paralympic Games. On hand as well is wrestling coach Marty Calder.

BERNIE MUCHALSKI
Postmedia Network

A handful of Niagara's Olympians and Paralympians received a noisy send-off last Tuesday afternoon at Brock University.

Cheered on by a young and noisy crowd made up primarily of Brock University's summer sports camps and

Youth University participants, appreciative goodbyes were delivered by wrestlers Michelle Fazzari and Jillian Gallays, wrestling coach Marty Calder and Bermuda Paralympian Jessica Lewis, a fifth-year Brock student. Brock head rowing coach Peter Somerville was on hand to speak for Brock alumnus Eric Woelfl, Tim Schrijver and Terry Paul. Woelfl and Schrijver are Olympic rowers and Paul, the coxie of Canada men's eight that won gold at the 1992 Olympics, is coaching Canada's men's quad in Rio de Janeiro. Canada's rowing team left for Brazil last Monday.

Fazzari agreed she was nervous, excited and apprehensive as Canada's wrestling squad prepared to head to Brazil last Tuesday night.

"It's everything you just said in one big ball of craziness, the Caledonia native said.

She has tried to maintain an even keel as the Summer Games approached.

"I am trying to ride the wave and there has been some effort put into that," she said.

Fazzari's division won't be contested until Aug. 17 and after attending the opening ceremonies, she will head to a training camp in Buzios, Brazil. She will return to Rio de Janeiro for good on Aug. 14.

Canada's representative at 58 kilograms was delighted with last Tuesday's send-off.



LOCAL NEWS

Son being remembered through music

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

For Mark Stephenson the death of his son is fresh in his mind.

Sean Stephenson was only 21 when he died on Christmas Day 2015 from a drug overdose.

Stephenson said his son struggled to cope with aspergers syndrome, a disorder on the autism spectrum that caused him to have a difficult time socially.

After trying to find help through the medical and mental health system since he was a child, the young man from Port Colborne turned to drugs and alcohol.

"It's easy for any kid who has a problem to get a hold of that stuff," his father said.

"He was just a beautiful kid, and it's a shame he fell through the cracks in the system."

Stephenson describes his son as

having a lot of street smarts, a lot of friends and not a care for possessions or money. Even though he loved shoes and had a well-paying job, he'd constantly be coming home with nothing.

"He was one of those kids who didn't care for anything monetary," he said. "He had no care in the world for the value of the dollar. He'd give anything away. He never had any possessions."

When it came to music, he said Sean was a "walking Wikipedia" because he knew so much.

Despite all this, his trying to cope with aspergers led him to substance abuse, fighting and ultimately landed him in the hospital a few times.

Stephenson said it was difficult to go through it all because there was nothing that could be done for him, especially when he was of age and could make his own decisions and needed to ask for help himself.

REMEMBER on page 14



Mark Stephenson stands with his son Sean Stephenson in this photo from Mark's wedding in Jamaica. Sean's struggle with aspergers syndrome led him to a drug overdose on Christmas Day 2015.

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LOCAL NEWS

Noisy and crowd send-off is all it takes

OLYMPICS from page 8

"It's awesome, especially because this is my school and this is where my Olympic dream started," Fazzari said.

Fazzari made sure her family and coaches were acknowledged for all their help on her journey.

"There is going to be an Olympian some day in this crowd," she told the audience. "You may not know it yet, but it will hit you soon enough."

She urged the crowd to try something new every day and have fun.

Gallays, a Saskatoon native, was on the same Cloud Nine as Fazzari.

"I'm excited, happy and eager is a good word for where I am at right now," she said.

Canada's representative at 53 kilograms won't be competing until Aug. 18 and that suits her perfectly.

"I think it's great because we

get to be part of opening ceremonies, soak in the Olympic vibe and then head to Buzios for a tapering camp where we will be brought back down to focus on our wrestling."

She also loved the event.

"It's nice to have all the kids around and people in general cheering you on," she said. "It is an amazing feeling."

Her advice to the audience was to be passionate about the sports they love.

"Not every day is going to be easy," she said. "You may love something, but you have to persevere and be determined."

"My career has been a lot about persevering and coming through hard times."

Fazzari and Gallays became the eighth and ninth Brock Wrestling Club members to compete in the Olympics. Calder is heading to his seventh straight Olympics, two as an athlete and five as a coach.

The thrill is still the same for Calder.

"It's an opportunity to represent the greatest country in the world," he said. "I love what I do, I am passionate about sports and to win at the highest level never grows old."

Calder loved the send-off.

"This event is great," he said. "It is our roots and I know these kids are young, but it's exactly where we came from."

He hopes the event will inspire some of the kids in attendance to take up sport.

"Wrestlers, rowers, Paralympians or anything," he said. "Obviously, if they can come our way that's good. I am a big proponent of participation in sports."

Somerwil was thrilled to be speaking on behalf of Brock's rowing alumnus that is heading to Rio.

"It's really exciting, especially since a couple of them

are recent alumni," he said. "It's pretty special."

Brock has had great success in recent years and has had many of its rowers make national and under-23 teams.

"We're really seen an uptick of our athletes making the national teams," Somerwil said.

It's a perfect example of success breeding success, but that's not the only factor.

"A big part of it is I have been very lucky to have a large group of volunteer coaches helping me and they are all extremely talented," Somerwil said.

Lewis enjoyed the send-off but told the crowd it is still another month before she heads to Brazil.

"To all of you here at the sports camps, don't be afraid to dream big because no dream is too big and no dreamer is too small," she said.



ROB TYMCZAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Staff, students and Brock sports camp kids help send off several of the athletes who will compete at the Rio Olympics. Wrestlers Michelle Fazzari, top, and teammate Jillian Gallays, centre, are joined by Jessica Lewis, a fifth-year Brock student who will represent her native Bermuda in the track events of the Paralympic Games. Also in the photo on the bottom right is Olympic medalist Tonya Verbeek.

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Region's first case of West Nile confirmed for 2016

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

A mosquito pool collected in Grimsby recently tested positive for West Nile virus.

However, a human case in Niagara of the potentially but rarely fatal virus has not yet been reported this summer.

"We do have our first positive pool in Grimsby," Peter Jekel, manager of environmental health for Niagara Region's public health department, said last Friday.

That positive test came from one of 21 traps set across the region in unidentified locations.

"We collect samples and they are analyzed by a laboratory for speciation and virus detection, and that process takes approximately one week to happen," Jekel said.

"It turned out it was indeed positive in this (Grimsby) circumstance," he said.

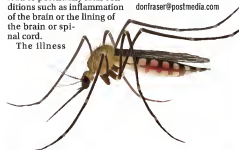
That positive sample was collected last week.

West Nile virus — which first migrated to Ontario in 2002 — is spread to humans by mosquitoes that have fed on the blood of infected birds. In the vast majority of cases, symptoms are relatively mild and can include fever, headaches, nausea and rashes.

Mild cases may involve flu-like symptoms, a rash or swollen lymph glands.

More serious infections can lead to potentially fatal conditions such as inflammation of the brain or the lining of the brain or spinal cord.

The illness



We collect samples and they are analyzed by a laboratory for speciation and virus detection, and that process takes approximately one week to happen."

Peter Jekel

can also cause a loss of limb function.

In 2002, there were 18 confirmed cases in Niagara, by far an all-time high. There have been no confirmed human cases this year.

Last year, Niagara had two human cases of West Nile virus and three infected mosquito pools. There were no reported human infections in the region in 2014.

The Region has advised residents to get rid of standing water such as pools and bird baths, where mosquitoes like to breed.

It has suggested avoiding mosquito-infested areas, wearing long sleeves and pants, repairing damaged doors and window screens and using insect repellent containing DEET.

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LOCAL NEWS

Musicians come together to help

REMEMBER from page 9

However, because of his illness, he said he didn't know how to ask the professionals for help.

"And then months later, he's dead. We were just waiting for the phone call and unfortunately it was Christmas Day," he said. "There was absolutely nothing we could do for him. Nothing."

Now in his memory, Stephenson said some of his musician friends have put together a concert.

"Musicians always come together to help each other," he said.

The groups that are volunteering their time for the concert are made up of people that both Stephenson and his son have known for many

years.

"When they heard of his passing, they were devastated," he said. "So they wanted to do something for him in memory."

While celebrating who Sean was with music, the event will also be collecting funds for the Salvation Army Booth Centre in St. Catharines, which was a big part of Sean's life during

his last days.

Stephenson also hopes the event will raise awareness for mental illness and struggles like those his son went through.

The event will take place at Club Richelieu in Welland on Tuesday, Aug. 16, Sean's birthday. The event starts at 6 p.m. and will run until about midnight.

Tickets for the event can be purchased from Stephenson who can be reached at 905-380-6040. There is also a Facebook event posting with more details which can be found by searching Don't You Forget About Me Memorial Concert for Sean Stephenson.

lbaron@postmedia.com

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13th August 2016 - Saturday

5:00 pm Solemn Vigil Mass

Vespers & Singing in Latin

Celebrant: Fr. Stuart MacDonald, J.C.L.,

Social Evening - Entertainment & Food
at Welland Market Square, Young Street, Welland

14th August 2016 - Sunday

9:00 am Solemn Mass in Italian

Celebrant: Don Marcello Zappala,
Ufficio Migrantes, Diocese of Acireale, Sicily

4:00 pm Solemn Mass

Procession & Eucharistic Benediction

Celebrant: Don Maurizio Guarrera, J.C.L.,
Diocese of Acireale, Sicily

Social Evening - Entertainment & Food
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15th August 2016 - Monday

Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary

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LOCAL NEWS

Canada 'no longer a possession' after World Wars

BERND FRANK
Postmedia Network

As a country, Canada was not to none during the Second World War in the allied effort to save the world from tyranny.

As a community, Welland also was front and centre, both on the battle lines as well as on the assembly line.

Those were among the highlights of an address Bob Cummings, a longtime educator with the Royal Canadian Legion in Welland, delivered last Saturday as part of Welland Museum's Niagara and the Great Wars lecture series.

"Canada, by World War II, was no longer a possession, but a country," he said. "Canada was the biggest per-capita donor in the world."

"That's something to be proud of."

Welland was among the biggest contributor to the Canadian war effort, in material as well as manpower. Cummings pointed out local factories switched to war production not long after the war started, and that 1,134 men, out of a population of only 10,000, went overseas.

"When you consider that half of those were women and children, that's a significant number," said the Royal Canadian Navy veteran who served as a peacekeeper during the Suez Canal crisis in the late 1950s.

A total of 86 soldiers from Welland died in the Second World War compared to the 91 who never made it home from the first.

In his hour-long address Cummings said Canadians "were doing it for the right reason" when they fought to prevent Adolf Hitler from world domination.

The First World War, in comparison, was a waste of colossal proportions. More than nine million troops were killed.

"That's a lot of people slogging in the mud. They really didn't go anywhere."

The monetary cost likewise was staggering, the 78-year-old Welland native said.

"The cost of buildings lost in World War I was enough to build every family in the world at the time a house," Cummings said. "There was also enough money lost to educate every child in the world."

He lamented the so-called "war to end all wars" only managed to put still-smoldering hostilities on the back-burner for 22 years.

"The day after the Chipewyan monument was dedicated, Germany declared war. Imagine that."

Forcing the vanquished Germans to pay war reparations, including ceding to France territory rich in minerals and industrial production, proved to be too steep a price, setting the stage for Hitler.

"In Berlin 75,000 people die of hunger. Germany's got no way to pay the bills, Germany's got no money," Cummings said. "This guy promised them an economy and a future and, in a way, he gave it to them."

Thankfully, the victors didn't repeat the same mistakes when an economy was defeated a second time.

"It's pleasant to think we learned something by not starving our enemies," he said. "Germany and Japan have two of the strongest economies in the world because we helped them."

Cummings concluded by encouraging the audience to "remember what happened in the past and to be wary of what happens in the

future."

"We have to have control of our government," he said. "It's our choice to change it."

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BERND FRANK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Royal Canadian Navy veteran Bob Cummings shared his passion for history in an instalment of Welland Historical Museum's Niagara and the Great Wars speaker series on Saturday.

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LOCALNEWS

Hip fans anxious for Welland broadcast

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Tragically, not everyone can see The Hip on their current tour, but fans will have the chance to enjoy the band's final show without needing a ticket.

The City of Welland will live broadcast The Tragically Hip's final concert at Welland Civic Square on Aug. 20 for fans of the beloved Canadian band.

Welland's Connie McCauchon said tickets were pretty expensive when she checked, so she thinks it's "awesome" the city will broadcast the show for people.

"It's an awesome idea, it enhances Welland pride. They are a great Canadian icon and it's an awesome opportunity for the community to celebrate," she said.

McCauchon isn't a "hard-core" fan, but she has enjoyed The Tragically Hip's music throughout the years. She said singer Gord Downie, who was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, has a great deal of courage and shows true Canadian character.

Penny Morningstar, director/curator at Welland Museum, is all in favour of the city's decision to broadcast the concert.

"I'm a big Tragically Hip fan and I think the more times and the more opportunities you have to make it accessible to as many people as you can, I think that's great," she said.

For Morningstar, it's great anytime the city and local businesses can bring people to an area and promote the city. She said the event should be a win-win for everyone.

"Unfortunately, not all fans can go and see it. Especially with this one because it really is so important and it is so bittersweet this time. I think the group's fans will just be so into sharing what



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Patrick Ryan, of Welland, says he will likely attend The Tragically Hip live broadcast at Welland Civic Square on Aug. 20, but his son Austin will be in bed at that time, even though Austin enjoys their music.

is happening with the group and that one member. And he's there in spirit," Morningstar said.

Katelynn Best, from Dunnville, said she will be attending the show in Welland. She said the band has had such a big impact on people's lives, her's included.

"Everyone knows at least one of their songs, so it will bring the old and the young... to have a nice mesh going on. I know for me, how the scalping

is going, I can't afford a ticket, plus it is not exactly in my area to drive to," said Best, who works at the museum. For Morningstar, attending the show in Welland. She said the next best thing to going to the concert.

"For the fans it is a way to turn around and say, 'You know, we love this band, we are with you'... and I think it is a way to cement that whole public thing where they

helped us through some of the best and worst of times in our life. It's a generational thing."

Patrick Ryan, of Welland, said he didn't know the concert was going to be broadcast at the civic square. But he said his son will be in bed during the concert, but Dad will be sure to attend.

Ryan said city events are a great way to bring people together and give the community something to do. He

said there needs to be more events like the one coming up.

Ryan laughed when he said his son, Austin, enjoys The Tragically Hip's music, but doesn't know who they are. He said his son will be in bed during the concert, but Dad will be sure to attend.

The city purchased a \$100,000 LED video screen which is 11 by 20 feet. The screen was purchased for the

purpose of displaying information from the municipality, Welland Hydro and paying advertisers.

The city chose to partner with Welland Downtown Business Improvement Area to air the concert, in hopes that it will bring a large crowd downtown. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

The concert is being broadcast across Canada.

MAlenberg@postmedia.com

Revive the Rose takes on Niagara

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Welland band Revive the Rose is ready to start recording their second album after making it to the final round of 97.1 HTZ-FM's 2016 Rocksearch contest.

Lead singer and drummer Andrew Colonico, 20, said the band performed for a sold-out show in the final round of the contest. He said that was one of the best shows he ever played.

The band placed fourth out

of the initial 16 bands chosen to compete.

Colonico said he and the three other band members chose three songs to submit that were chosen from hundreds of bands that applied. Revive the Rose went through three

rounds, moving to the top eight and finally to the top four.

"We didn't take home the gold, unfortunately, but we got pretty close though."

During the contest the band's music was played on air, which gained them more exposure

through southern Ontario.

"We got air-play. I got 10 random ladies show up to our show within a week of us being on the radio, like, 'Oh, we love your songs. We came to check you guys out tonight.' We gave autographs, it was different," Colon-

ico said with a laugh.

The band consists of Colonico, guitarist Matt Cookson, 20, bass player Garrett Mullin, 20, and guitarist and singer Peter Antoniou, 21.

BAND on page 21

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LOCAL NEWS

Bibliophiles unite in Niagara

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Philip Segall is passionate about libraries.

"Even when I'm on holidays I always make it point to stop by a local library," said the young librarian from London, England.

He visited a number of Niagara libraries over the weekend through Cycling for Libraries, a group of librarians and book lovers from across the globe.

"International librarianship is very important," Segall said during a stop at the Niagara-on-the-Lake library.

He said there many challenges facing libraries these days. Hundreds of libraries have closed their doors in the U.K. over the past 10 years alone.

"It's important that we get together and talk about those challenges and come up with ways to face those challenges."

Cycling for Libraries has organized a cycling trip for library aficionados for the past six years.

This was the first time the event was held in North America and it attracted 31 people from 12 countries including Germany, France, Denmark and Sweden.

"We cycle, we promote libraries and we visit a lot of libraries to get a sense of what's going on in different places," said Cory Stier, deputy CEO at a public library in Red Deer, Alta.

Last Saturday, the tour stopped at the library at Niagara College in Welland, Niagara Falls Public Library on Victoria Avenue, the Niagara-on-the-Lake

library and Brock University's library.

Segall said he was impressed by the Niagara Falls library, which offers 1,800 programs a year of which 1,500 are geared towards children.

"The sheer range of programming they do ... I was very impressed with that," he said. "I liked how they try to incorporate different cultures so they can do something for each of the communities they serve."

Not all of the cyclists are librarians.

Janet Joy Wilson is the senior executive sales director at Penguin Random House Canada.

"I'm a bike-riding book lover," she said with a smile. "To be with librarians around the world is really interesting. I'm seeing things through their eyes and getting educated along the way."

At the Niagara-on-the-Lake library, chief librarian Cathy Simpson gave the group a tour of the Anderson Lane facility and explained how the library works to meet the needs of the multicultural community.

This year's theme was how do libraries foster inclusion and social cohesion in Canada's multicultural communities.

Locally, for example, the Niagara-on-the-Lake library has material in Spanish to meet the needs of the seasonal workers who call the town home during the summer months.

The cyclists will travel approximately 600 kilometres before arriving in Toronto.

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Cory Stier, left, and Philip Segall stop by Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library Saturday.

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LOCAL NEWS

Revive the Rose to record second album

BAND from page 17

The band's sound is a combination of classic rock and modern rock. Colonic said the band members are diverse and are known to add elements of reggae and other types of music. He said their music mainly sounds like classic rock though.

Revive the Rose played their first show in 2014 at Seaway Mall for the Niagara's Got Talent show. The band chose the talent show as their debut performance because it was around the time when they started to feel confident enough to play for an audience. He said the show went OK despite missing a guitar player.

"We have a really good fan base now in the Niagara region, as well as we are developing fan bases in Hamilton, outside Welland and Niagara. So pretty much from Niagara to the '6' we are getting a pretty good following."

Last year the band took to the road to tour Ontario. Colonic said the band has seen some success from touring and has opened

for big acts, including The Glorious Sons and Danko Jones.

Colonic said their favourite musician to open up for has been Danko Jones. The band opened for Jones in January at L3 in St. Catharines.

"That was an insane show. It was pretty much sold out, that show. It was nuts... that was our first show of the new year."

The band is recording a second album this month at Catherine North Studios, where City and Colour recorded one of their albums. Colonic said recording at the studio means a lot to the band because it's a place where many of their favourite artists have recorded. The album will be available in 2017.

Their first album, *Potato*, is available online on iTunes, Apple Music and Spotify.

To listen to Revive the Rose's contest submissions visit www.htzfm.com/Rocksearch/2016/bands/2016/04/28/revive-the-rose-3.

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MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Revive the Rose lead singer and drummer Andrew Colonic sets up his drum set in his home in Welland where the band sometimes practises.



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Former church preservation has value

BERND FRANK
Postmedia Network

Dollar signs in people's eyes have been known to disappear quickly in Jon Jouppein's hands in his two cents.

While the antiques appraiser doesn't like to dash someone's dream, he prefers them to giving people false hope that an old lamp discovered in a basement is a hidden treasure potentially worth thousands of dollars at auction.

"I never lie to people, I give it to them straight, but it's deflating," Jouppein said during a break last Saturday at a fundraising appraisal session at the former St. Paul's Anglican Church in Port Robinson.

After breaking the bad news in an appraisal, he endeavors to help people see that while they don't have a Ming vase, what they do have need not necessarily be an empty vessel, devoid of any worth.

"I try to let people down gently. I try to get them to appreciate what they do have."

A St. Catharines native now living in Niagara Falls, where he operates Heritage Resource Consultant Inc., Jouppein finds himself on the receiving end of plenty of smiles in his line of work.

"Most people are here very pleased. They pick up things at garage sales and flea

markets and they're surprised by how much it's worth," he said. "These items were picked up by people with a keen eye."

Much like real estate agents, who have asking prices on what similar houses in the same neighbourhood sold for, appraisers assess the market value of antiques on past sales. Jouppein has more than 6,000 catalogues from auctions dating back 30 years that he can consult.

It's been Jouppein's experience that seeking an appraisal of an antique, by definition of the trade anything 100 years or older, isn't always about money.

"A lot of people will come with something like a grandfather's sword, because they want to know something about it," he said. "They're not interested in money."

"They want to know their family's history. It's been lost."

Jouppein, who is certified by Revenue Canada to appraise donations of antiques that are eligible for tax deductions, volunteered his expertise last Saturday to help the non-profit Friends of St. Paul raise money for restoration of the 182-year-old church. He appraised about 50 items and waived his usual fee in return for donations of \$5 each.

Jouppein, who is a member of Friends of St. Paul, and Betty Michael, who spear-

headed a campaign to acquire the property from the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, hope the building can become an "active classroom" promoting history and heritage once the restoration is completed.

"This can become a heritage hall with beautiful exhibits," said Michael, who agreed to take over management of the adjacent cemetery from the City of Thorold as part of the agreements to save the building from the wrecker's ball.

Jouppein joined the campaign because he didn't want St. Paul, the last of the four churches that served the once-thriving terminus of the original Welland Canal, to suffer the same fate as Port Robinson when it lost its bridge and became a divided community.

"Port Robinson is a dead-end street now, but in the 19th century it was a strategic point on the supply line in Upper Canada."

At one point, the community had more doctors per capita than any centre in Upper Canada.

"Port Robinson was a very wealthy community," Jouppein said. "It was more expensive to buy a pane of glass here than one shipped from Europe, so everything that went west had to go through here."

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